

Message Text

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CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENG
ALL NATO CAPITALS
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USLOSACLANT NORFOLK VA
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GER
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SECDEF FOR ODDR&E/IP/TWP, OASD/ISA/I&L. SECSTATE FOR
EUR/RPM. CSAF FOR ATF/RDPW. OSAF FOR SAFRD. AFSC FOR
SD. ESD FOR YWT. USCINCEUR FOR J-5. EMBASSY THE HAGUE,
RADLO PASS TO MIRMAN.

E.O.11625: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, DPC, AWACS
SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING, MAY 18, 1977, AGENDA
ITEM V, NATO AIRBORNE EARLY WARNING AND CONTROL SYSTEM

SUMMARY: DEFENSE MINISTERS ENDORSED THE ACTIVITIES UNDER-
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WAY TO DEVELOP A RESTRUCTURED NATO AEW PROGRAM BASED ON A
MIXED FORCE OF NIMROD AND AWACS. SECRETARY BROWN SAID THE
US COULD BEGIN WORK IN THE FALL TO ENSURE THAT US AND NATO
AWACS SOFTWARE CONFIGURATIONS WOULD BE COMPATIBLE, IF THE
US WERE REASONABLY SURE THERE WILL BE A NATO AWACS FORCE.
THEREFORE, NATO SHOULD MAKE DECISION ON AWACS BY THE END
OF THE YEAR. MINISTER LEBER GENERALLY AGREED, BUT CALLED

FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT, INTEROPERABILITY AND FULL NATO COVERAGE BEFORE A DECISION CAN BE MADE. MINISTER MULLEY PLEDGED TO DO ALL HE COULD TO INSURE INTEROPERABILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. ACTING SECRETARY GENERAL PANSA REVIEWED DEVELOPMENTS ON THE NATO AEW PROGRAM SINCE THE MARCH 25 DEFENSE MINISTERS MEETING AS OUTLINED IN PO/77/71. BECAUSE OF EVENTS SINCE MARCH 25, AND PARTICULARLY THE UK DECISION FOR NIMROD AEW, PANSA DID NOT BELIEVE THAT NATO COULD STILL REALISTICALLY CONSIDER THE JULY 1 DECISION DATE. HE SUGGESTED THAT NATO SHOULD MOVE AS RAPIDLY AS POSSIBLE THROUGH THE EARLY STEPS OUTLINED IN THE PO AND THEN ESTABLISH, THROUGH THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION, A REVISED PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION BY NATIONS. IN THIS REGARD HE ASKED MINISTERS TO EXPRESS AGAIN A SENSE OF URGENCY IN GETTING ON WITH THE PREPARATORY WORK, TO NOTE THE ACTIONS UNDERWAY, AND TO ENDORSE THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATO AEW PROGRAM OFFICE (NAPO). HE ALSO ASKED FOR MINISTERS' SUPPORT IN THE CONTINUED MANNING OF NAPO.

2. CITING THE NEED TO ENSURE A VIABLE AIR DEFENSE FOR THE ALLIANCE IN THE NEXT DECADE, SECRETARY BROWN SAID THAT, WHILE DISAPPOINTED THAT THE UK HAS OPTED FOR NIMROD, THE US IS CONVINCED THAT A VIABLE MIXED AEW FORCE OF NIMROD AND AWACS AIRCRAFT CAN AND MUST BE DEVELOPED. HE WELCOMED THE ASSURANCES THAT THE UK WILL PROVIDE NIMROD AS A COMPONENT OF THE MIXED FORCE, AND THAT THE UK RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF ENSURING THAT NIMROD IS INTEROPERABLE

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WITH AWACS. THE US ENDORSES THE EFFORTS UNDERWAY TO PREPARE A NEW PROPOSAL AND BELIEVES THIS WORK WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR THE FIRM PROCUREMENT DECISION THE ALLIANCE SO URGENTLY REQUIRES. SECRETARY BROWN AGREED WITH PANSA THAT JULY 1 IS NO LONGER A REALISTIC TARGET DATE, BUT HE ASKED MINISTERS TO INVEST ALL POSSIBLE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN A PROCUREMENT DECISION AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE. ONE ASPECT IS TIME DEPENDENT; THE US FY 78 BUDGET INCLUDES \$15 MILLION TO MAKE THE US AWACS AIRCRAFT COMPATIBLE WITH THE SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS OF NATO. THE US IS WILLING TO EXPEND THIS EFFORT IF THERE WILL BE A NATO AWACS FORCE. THE US NEEDS TO KNOW THIS TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR, SINCE FY 78 BEGINS ON OCTOBER 1. FOR THIS REASON, NATO SHOULD MAKE A PROCUREMENT DECISION BY THE END OF 1977.

3. DANSON (CANADA) CONTRASTED THE GOOD WORDS FREQUENTLY EXPRESSED ABOUT THE NEED FOR GREATER ALLIANCE COOPERATION WITH NATO'S COLLECTIVE PERFORMANCE ON NATO AEW. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE MARCH 25 MEETING, HE

HAD GONE TO HIS CABINET TO SEEK AGREEMENT THAT CANADA SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO NATO AEW. THE CABINET ACCEPTED THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT FOR SUCH A SYSTEM. HOWEVER, THE UNCERTAINTIES RESULTING FROM THE UK DECISION LEFT CANADA WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO DEFER A DECISION UNTIL THE CONFUSION IS WORKED OUT.

THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT IS NOT IN DOUBT, BUT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR CANADA TO ACCEPT A MAJOR SHARE IF THE EUROPEAN NATIONS ARE NOT PREPARED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD MEETING THE NEED. DANSON WAS PREPARED TO TAKE THE MATTER

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BACK TO HIS CABINET (1) PROVIDED ALL CAN AGREE UPON A REVISED PROGRAM WHICH MEETS THE NEED AND IS SEEN AS A GENUINELY COMMON PROGRAM, AND (2) PROVIDED DETAILS OF COST SHARING AND INDUSTRIAL BENEFITS ARE SATISFACTORILY WORKED OUT. HE ACCEPTED THE APPROACH SPELLED OUT IN

PO/77/71, AND STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF FULL MULTI-LATERAL INVOLVEMENT IN EVERY STEP OF THE PROCESS. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT PERMREPS WOULD MONITOR THE ACTIONS PROPOSED AND RECEIVE DIRECT AND REGULAR REPORTS IN EITHER THE DPC OR COUNCIL FORA.

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DANSON TURNED TO THE SUBJECT OF PRIORITIES, SAYING THAT A FEW YEARS AGO NATO TOLD CANADA THAT IT SHOULD CONCENTRATE INVESTMENTS ON NEW TANKS, MODERN MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT, NEW FIGHTER AIRCRAFT AND REPLACEMENTS FOR OLDER WARSHIPS, IN THAT ORDER. BARELY HAD CANADA REORDERED ITS PRIORITIES WHEN THE NATO AEW PROGRAM CAME TO THE FORE AS A SORT OF SUPER PRIORITY; AND NOW THREE FURTHER AREAS HAVE BEEN PROPOSED FOR SHORTER TERM ATTENTION BY SECRETARY BROWN. HE SAID THAT THERE CAN BE NO BETTER EVIDENCE OF THE ALLIANCE'S NEED TO ESTABLISH ITS OVERALL PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS ON A LONGER-TERM BASIS.

4. PANSA AGREED WITH DANSON THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SOLVE QUESTION OF PRIORITIES AND OBSERVED THAT THE EARLIER DPC DISCUSSION ON A LONG-RANGE DEFENSE PROGRAM HAD PUT THE RIGHT EMPHASIS ON THE SUBJECT.

5. HANSEN (NORWAY) SAID HIS GOVERNMENT HAD SUPPORTED THE NEED FOR AEW AND HAD BEEN WILLING TO PROCEED WITH THE PROGRAM ON MARCH 25. THE ALLIANCE IS NOW FACED WITH A NEW SITUATION, THAT OF A MIXED FORCE. NATO WILL NEED TO STUDY CAREFULLY THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT AND NORWAY IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROCESS. HOWEVER, HE POINTED OUT THAT NATO SHOULD PROCEED WITH THESE ACTIVITIES AT A REASONABLE PACE SINCE IT CANNOT AFFORD ANOTHER ABORTIVE EFFORT. HE ALSO STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF MARITIME SURVEILLANCE AND OF ENSURING THAT THE AEW SYSTEM INTEROPERATES WITH THE PRESENT GROUND ENVIRONMENT. NORWAY, BECAUSE OF ITS NORTHERN FLANK LOCATION ADJACENT TO THE SOVIET UNION, WOULD HAVE TO APPROVE THE CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS FOR THE FORCE IN NORWAY'S AREA.

6. MOLLER (DENMARK) AGREED THAT THE REQUIREMENT TO MEET THE LOW LEVEL THREAT REMAINS. DENMARK WOULD STUDY THE PROPOSAL VERY CAREFULLY WHEN IT WAS DEVELOPED. HE APPRECIATED THE NEED TO SUPPORT CONTINUED NAPO OPERATIONS, BUT SAID THAT, DUE TO DENMARK'S ECONOMIC SITUATION, IT COULD NOT PLEDGE MONETARY OR PERSONNEL SUPPORT TO NATO.

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7. KIRCA (TURKEY) SAID TURKEY CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM, BUT HE POINTED OUT THAT ONE OF THE CONDITIONS FOR THAT SUPPORT IS THAT A FORWARD-OPERATING BASE BE LOCATED IN TURKEY. HE ALSO REFERRED TO HIS STATEMENT AT THE MARCH 25 DPC THAT TURKEY'S CONTRIBUTION COULD NOT BE MORE THAN \$20 MILLION.

8. LATTANZIO (ITALY) SAID THAT NATO AEW IS A POLITICAL PROBLEM AND MUST BE DEALT WITH VERY CAREFULLY. THERE ARE SOME FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WHICH NEED TO BE SOLVED; FIRST IS THE FRENCH POSITION; SECOND IS COVERAGE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN; AND THIRD IS THE POSITION THIS SYSTEM ASSUMES WITHIN OVERALL DEFENSE PRIORITIES. NATO NEEDS TO WORK ON THESE ISSUES RESPONSIBLY. AS SOON AS THE DETAILS ARE KNOWN, ITALY WOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO CONCLUSIONS AS TO THE EXTENT OF ITS PARTICIPATION. HE ALSO SAID IT WOULD BE WRONG FOR NATO TO TRY TO WORK TOO RAPIDLY ON THESE PROBLEMS.

9. PANSA DID NOT BELIEVE THAT LATTANZIO'S POSITION DIFFERED FROM THE COURSE OF ACTION SUGGESTED IN THE PO. HE SAID THAT THE DPC AND COUNCIL IN PERMANENT SESSION WILL BE ABLE TO WORK ON THESE POLITICAL PROBLEMS AS THE PROPOSAL IS DEVELOPED.

10. LEBER (FRG) AGREED WITH THE PROPOSAL MADE BY SECRETARY BROWN, BUT HE SAID THAT WITHOUT A RECONSIDERATION OF MANY ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL AND POLITICAL MATTERS NATO COULD NOT MAKE A DECISION ON THIS PROGRAM. THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT MUST BE RECONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE NEW PROBLEM OF INTER-

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OPERABILITY WITH NIMROD. HE CAUTIONED AGAINST ADDITION OF NEW CAPABILITIES, DURING THE REVIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT, WHICH WOULD DRIVE COSTS UP. ON THE QUESTION OF INTER-OPERABILITY, THE FRG WOULD NOT BE WILLING TO PAY FOR INTEROPERABILITY WITH NIMROD. THE STUDIES SHOULD CONSIDER THIS SITUATION VERY CAREFULLY. FINALLY, THE OVERALL NATO SOLUTION SHOULD MEET THE INTERESTS OF NATO AS A WHOLE. HE ASKED ABOUT NORTHERN FLANK COVERAGE, WONDERING HOW A MIXED FORCE WOULD PROVIDE THAT COVERAGE. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE STUDIES WOULD HAVE TO INVESTIGATE COVERAGE IN THE CENTER AND ON THE SOUTHERN FLANK AS
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WELL. HE DID NOT BELIEVE NATO SHOULD LEAVE COVERAGE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN TO THE US; IT SHOULD NOT BECOME AN AMERICAN SEA. ALL OF THESE POINTS HAVE TO BE STUDIED AND CLARIFIED BEFORE A DECISION IS TAKEN.

11. MULLEY (UK) REGRETTED THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH LED THE UK TO MAKE ITS DECISION FOR NIMROD, BUT REITERATED THAT IN NIMROD THE ALLIANCE WILL BE GETTING A MODERN SYSTEM, AND THAT THE UK WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO INSURE INTEROPERABILITY OF NIMROD WITH THE NATO AEW SYSTEM. THE UK HAS ALREADY MADE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND TO NAPO ON THIS SUBJECT AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE AVAILABLE EVERYTHING THAT IT CAN TO INSURE INTEROPERABILITY AND COMPATIBILITY. HE SAID HE BELIEVED A MIXED AND INTER-OPERABLE FORCE COULD WORK. HE OBSERVED THAT PRELIMINARY STUDIES HAD INDICATED THAT AN 18 AIRCRAFT AWACS FORCE WOULD BE NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE COVERAGE AND THUS THE UK CONTRIBUTION IN KIND WOULD ESSENTIALLY RESULT IN A REDUCTION OF THE REST OF NATO'S REQUIREMENT BY ONE-THIRD. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT INTERVENE, LEBER INDICATED EMPHATICALLY BY A HEADSHAKE THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE. END COMMENT.)

MULLEY SUPPORTED SECRETARY BROWN IN CALLING FOR RAPID

MOVEMENT ON STUDIES AND PROGRAM PREPARATIONS. HE SAID NATO NEEDS TO HAVE AN EARLY SOLUTION IF IT IS TO ACHIEVE A COLLECTIVE FORCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE REITERATED THAT THE UK WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO SUPPORT THIS PROCESS AND TO ENSURE THAT THIS REALLY VITAL NEED IS SATISFIED.

12. GENERAL ZEINER-GUNDERSEN (CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE) SAID THAT THE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAVE A VERY VITAL AND CLOSE INTEREST IN THE WORK THAT IS GOING ON TOWARD ACHIEVING AN AEW SYSTEM FOR THE ALLIANCE. THE THREAT HAS NOT CHANGED; IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE ALLIANCE ACQUIRE AN AEW FORCE IF IT IS TO HAVE AN EFFECTIVE AIR
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DEFENSE IN THE 1980S. THE MILITARY REQUIREMENT IS VALID AND THE NMAS ARE READY TO EVALUATE ANY PROPOSALS THAT ARE DEVELOPED. REFERRING TO THE POINT MADE BY LEBER, HE SAID THE NMAS WOULD NOT USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SHARPEN THEIR APPETITES AND REQUEST MORE.

13. IN CLOSING THE DISCUSSION, PANSA SAID THAT HE HAD HEARD NOTHING FROM AROUND THE TABLE AGAINST CONTINUANCE OF THE STUDIES AND HE BELIEVED OA THESE STEPS WILL CLARIFY ALL OF THE MILITARY AND POLITICAL ASPECTS THAT ARE STILL IN QUESTION. HE SAID WUTO WILL HAVE TO RELY ON THE MILITARY AUTHORITIES DURING THE FIRST STAGES OF THIS WORK BUT THAT THE SUBJECT COULD COME UP BEFORE THE DPC IN PERMANENT SESSION AGAIN VERY SOON TO KEEP TRACK OF ACTIONS TAKEN. HE APPLAUDED THE ACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THE UNITED STATES TOWARD MAKING US AWACS COMPATIBLE WITH THE NATO REQUIREMENT. IN THAT RESPECT NATO SHOULD KEEP THE TIME PRESSURES MENTIONED BY SECRETARY BROWN IN MIND AND WORK TOWARD A DECISION BY THE END OF THE YEAR. BENNETT

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